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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, {
LANSING, MICHIGAN, *September, 1873.* }

To the Clerk of the Local Board of Health :

SIR :—Your attention is respectfully called to the following legal provisions :

Act No. 81, Laws of 1873, is "An act to establish a State Board of Health, to provide for the appointment of a Superintendent of Vital Statistics, and to assign certain duties to Local Boards of Health." In accordance with this Act, the State Board of Health has been fully organized. In entering upon its duties, it asks your earnest co-operation in its labors, which have for their object the search for and removal of causes of sickness and deaths among the people. To secure your earnest and faithful action in so noble a cause, it is believed that this Board has but to point out a way in which your services will tend to aid the efforts of its members for the relief of human suffering, and the more perfect health and life of your fellow citizens and neighbors. Section 8, of Act No. 81, referred to above, is as follows : "It shall be the duty of the health physician, and also of the clerk of the local board of health in each township, city, and village in this State, at least once in each year, to report to the State Board of Health their proceedings, and such other facts required, on blanks and in accordance with instructions received from said State Board. They shall also make special reports whenever required to do so by the State Board of Health."

Section (1692) 1, of Chapter XLVI., Compiled Laws of 1871, provides that "The supervisor and justices of the peace of every township, respecting which no other provision is or shall be made by law, shall be a board of health for their respective townships, and *the township clerk shall be the clerk of such board*, and shall keep a record of their proceedings in a book to be provided for that purpose at the expense of the township." Your account for services and expenses in connection with your reports to the State Board of Health, should also be allowed by your local board of health, as for services of its clerk.

Section (1740) 49, of Chapter XLVI., Compiled Laws of 1871, provides that "The mayor and aldermen of each incorporated city, and the president and council, or trustees, of each incorporated village in this State, shall have and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of a board of health, as provided in this chapter, within the limits of the cities or villages respectively, of which they are such officers."

Please fill out, and return as soon as possible, the enclosed blank for your first special report to this board.

It is not expected that the clerks of local boards of health are now generally in possession of accurate official knowledge respecting "Diseases dangerous to the public health," as they should be if the provisions of Section 1735, Compiled Laws of 1871, were generally heeded. It is expected that for this report you will ascertain in some manner what are the facts, and report them as accurately as possible. For the future, it is expected that you will be prepared and make a record of all facts concerning "Diseases dangerous to the public health," which may be communicated to your board by physicians and householders, in order that at any time when called upon you may be able to report to this office a full detailed account of the cases of such diseases within the jurisdiction of your board of health.

Blanks for your Annual Report to this board will be forwarded to you in due time. It is hoped that you will then be prepared to report in full concerning your local board, whether it has or has not taken any action, and concerning the various conditions in your locality which affect the public health.

This board will at any time thankfully receive accurate and positive information concerning diseases and deaths from removable causes among the people of this State.

In case Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Typhoid Fever, or any disease should appear in your locality as an epidemic, please make a Special Report of the fact to this office as soon as possible, in order that the conditions of its progress and decline may be thoroughly studied.

By direction of the State Board of Health.

Very respectfully,

HENRY B. BAKER, M. D.,

Secretary.

[Please preserve and file the Circulars received from this Office.]

CIRCULAR NUMBER 1.

FROM

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

*Circular of the Secretary to the clerks
of local boards calling attention to the
legal provisions relating to public
health. Sept., 1874.*